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In remembrance of John Lewis

Statement from Alderman Khalif J. Rainey July 30, 2020

Since Congressman John Lewis passed away, countless people have offered their thoughts on his legacy, stories of interactions with him, and how he served as an inspiration. Today offers another such opportunity for reflection as the funeral services occur for the late congressman and civil rights leader.

Earlier this week the full Common Council unanimously sponsored and passed a resolution honoring John Lewis for his service as a civil rights leader and congressman. It was one small act we can take to recognize a man who gave so much for our society.

Personally, John Lewis has been an inspiration to me and has served as a guiding light for those who have ventured into a life of public service.

As a national voice for civil rights I will always appreciate him for being a leader at the March on Washington in 1963, leading peaceful protestors across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, and then continuing his fight racial equality and justice as an elected official for more than 30 years.

John Lewis devoted his life to bringing justice to all Americans, and his decades of service have laid the foundation for us to continue advocating for civil rights and equality. His memory will not be forgotten, and we will carry on his life's work by continuing to get in "good trouble."

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